



News from the Office of Minnesota's Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan

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Rep. Nolan Statement on House Passage of VA Health Care Reform

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] – Following the passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of the conference report on the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act to reform the VA health care system, Minnesota's Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan released the following statement:

"In providing resources necessary to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), expand its health care services, and eliminate the unconscionable benefits backlog, Congress has sent a clear message that there can be no more excuses or delays in assuring that every veteran receives the highest standard of care a grateful nation can provide.

During my Veterans Round Tables throughout Minnesota's Eighth District, vets and their families voiced a great many of the concerns addressed in this bill – especially the need to obtain medical care close to home, expand programs to treat mental illnesses, suicide prevention, PTSD, and sexual trauma, and make better educational and training opportunities more available for veterans eager to return to the workforce or start a business.

Make no mistake – significant challenges lie ahead as more and more of our troops return home from abroad, but veterans and their families can feel very good about the passage of this bill – a major step forward on their behalf.

I am pleased the Speaker listened to the calls of more than one hundred House Democrats to pass this measure before the August recess, and I now urge swift passage in the Senate."

The House of Representatives approved the bill by a bipartisan 420-5 vote. The Senate is expected to take up the bill this week.

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